NUMB. CCXLVI.

The SPECTATOR.

—— Οὐκ ἄρα σοί γε πατὴρ ἦν ἱππότα Πηλεύς
Οὐδὲ Θέτις μήτηρ γλαυκὴ δ' ἔτικτε θάλασσα,
Πέτραι τ' ἠλίβατοι, ὅτι τοι νόος ἐστὶν ἀπηνής.

Wednesday, December 12. 1711.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

AS your Paper is Part of the Equipage of the Tea-Table, I conjure you to print what I now write to you; for I have no other Way to communicate what I have to say to the fair Sex on the most important Circumstance of Life, even the Care of their Offspring. I do not understand that you profess your Paper is always to consist of Matters which may only to entertain the Learned and Polite, but that you may agree with your Design to publish Things which may tend to the Information of Mankind in general; and when it does so, you do more than writing Wit and Humour. Give me leave then to tell you, that of all the Abuses which you have as yet endeavoured to reform, there is not one wanted so much your Assistance as the Abuse in nursing of Children. It is unmercifully see, that a Woman endowed with all the Graces and Blessings of Nature, can, as soon as she is delivered, turn off her innocent, tender, helpless Infant, and give it up to a Woman that (a thousand to one) neither in Health nor Constitution, neither sound in Mind nor Body, and neither Honour nor Reputation, neither Love nor Pity for the poor Babe, but more Regard to the Money than for the whole Child, and will take further Care of it than what by the Encouragement of Money and Presents she is forced to; like *Æsop*'s Earth, which would make the Plant of another Ground, altho' not so much improved, by Reason that Plant was not her own Production. And since another's Child is no more natural to a Nurse than a Plant of strange and different Ground, how can it be expected that the Child should thrive? and if it does not, must it not imbibe the gross Humours and Blood of the Nurse, like a Plant in a different Soil, or like a Graft upon a different Stock? For we observe, that a Lamb sucking a Goat grows very much its Nature, nay even its Skin and Hair into the Goat kind? The Power of a Nurse on a Child, by infusing into it with her Milk her Qualities and Disposition, is sufficiently and daily observed: Hence came that old Saying concerning an ill-natur'd and malicious Fellow, that he had imbibed his Malice with his Mother's Milk, or that some Brute or other had been his Nurse. Hence *Romulus* and *Remus* were said to have been nursed by a Woolf, *Telephus* the Son of *Hercules* by a Hind, *Pelias* the Son of *Neptune* by a Mare, and *Ægisthus* by a Goat; not as if they had actually suck'd such Creatures, as the Simpletons have imagin'd, but that their Nurses had been of such a Nature and Temper, as if such into them.

'Many Instances may be produced from good Authorities and daily Experience, that Children actually suck in the several Passions and depraved Inclinations of their Nurses, as Anger, Malice, Fear, Melancholy, Sadness, Desire, and Aversion. This *Diodorus*, *Lib.* 2. witnesses, when he speaks, saying, That *Nero* the Emperour's Nurse had been very much addicted to Drinking, which Habit *Nero* received from his Nurse, and was so very particular in this, that the People took so much Notice of it, as instead of *Tiberius Nero* they call'd him *Biberius Mero*. The same *Diodorus* also relates of *Caligula* Predecessor to *Nero*, that his Nurse used to moisten the Nipples of her Breast frequently with Blood, to make *Caligula* take the better Hold of them; which, says *Diodorus*, was the Cause, that made him so blood-thirsty and cruel all his Life-time after, that he not only committed frequent Murder by his own Hand, but likewise wish'd that all human kind were but one Neck, that he might have the Pleasure to cut it off. Such like Degeneracies astonish the Parents, not knowing after whom the Child can take, seeing the one to incline to Stealing, another Drinking, Cruelty, Scurrility; yet all these are not minded: Nay it is easy to demonstrate, that a Child, although it be born from the best of Parents, may be corrupted by an ill-tempered Nurse. How many Children do we see daily brought into Fits, Consumptions, Rickets, &c. meerly by sucking their Nurses when in a Passion, or Fury. But indeed almost any Disorder of the Nurse is a Disorder to the Child, and few Nurses can be found in this Town but what labour under some Distemper or other. The first Question that is generally ask'd a young Woman that wants to be a Nurse, is, why she should be a Nurse to other People's Children; is answered by her having an ill Husband, and that she must make Shift to live. I think now this very Answer is enough to give any Body a Shock if duly considered; for an ill Husband may, or ten to one if he does not, bring home to his Wife an ill Distemper, or at least Vexation and Disturbance. Besides, as she takes the Child out of meer Necessity, her Food will be accordingly, or else very coarse at best; whence proceeds an ill concocted and coarse Food for the Child, for as the Blood so is the Milk; and hence I am very well assured proceeds the Scurvy, the Evil, and many other Distempers. I beg of you, for the Sake of the many poor Infants that may and will be saved, by weighing this Case seriously, to exhort the People with the utmost Vehemence to let the Children suck their own Mother, both for the Benefit of Mother and Child. For the general Argument,

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that a Mother is weakened by giving ſuck to her Children is vain and ſimple; I will maintain, that the Mother grows ſtronger by it, and will have her Health better than ſhe would have otherwiſe: She will find it the greateſt Cure and Preſervative for the Vapours and future Miſcarriages, much beyond any other Remedy whatſoever: Her Children will be like Giants, whereas otherwiſe they are but living Shadows and like unripe Fruit; and certainly, if a Woman is ſtrong enough to bring forth a Child, ſhe is beyond all Doubt ſtrong enough to nurſe it afterwards. It grieves me to obſerve and conſider how many poor Children are daily ruin'd by careleſs Nurſes; and yet how tender ought they to be of a poor Infant, ſince the leaſt Hurt or Blow, eſpecially upon the Head, may make it ſenſeleſs, ſtupid, or otherwiſe miſerable for ever?

But I cannot well leave this Subject as yet; for it ſeems to me very unnatural that a Woman that has fed a Child as Part of her ſelf for nine Months, ſhould have no Deſire to nurſe it farther, when brought to Light and before her Eyes, and when by its Cry it implores her Aſſiſtance and the Office of a Mother. Do not the very cruelleſt of Brutes tend their young ones with all the Care and Delight imaginable? For how can ſhe be call'd a Mother that will not nurſe its young ones? The Earth is call'd the Mother of all things, not becauſe ſhe produces, but becauſe ſhe maintains and nurſes what ſhe produces. The Generation of the Infant is the Effect of Deſire, but the Care of it argues Virtue and Choice. I am not ignorant but that there are ſome Caſes of Neceſſity where a Mother cannot give ſuck, and then out of two Evils the leaſt muſt be choſen; but there are ſo very few, that I am ſure in a Thouſand there is hardly one real Inſtance; for if a Woman does but know that her Husband can ſpare about three or ſix Shilling a Week extraordinary (although this is but ſeldom conſidered) ſhe certainly, with the Aſſiſtance of her Goſſips, will ſoon perſwade the good Man to ſend the Child to nurſe, and eaſily impoſe upon him by pretending Indiſpoſition. Thus Cruelty is ſupported by Faſhion, and Nature gives Place to Cuſtom.

SIR,

Your humble Servant,

Not acted theſe five Years.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, to Morrow being Thurſday, the 13th of December, will be reviv'd a Play call'd, Mithridates King of Pontus. The Part of Mithridates by Mr. Mills, Xiphares by Mr. Wilks, Pharnaces by Mr. Powell, Archilaus by Mr. Bowman, Aquilius by Mr. Booth, Semandra by Mrs. Oldfield, Monima by Miſs Sherborn. To which (at the Deſire of ſeveral Ladies of Quality) will be added, a Farce of one Act only, call'd, The Country-Wake. The Part of Hob by Mr. Dogget.

By Subſcription.

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, this preſent Wednesday, being the 12th of December, will be preſented a new Opera call'd, Antiochus. The Tickets and Books are delivered out this Day at Mrs. Wharé's Chocolate-Houſe The firſt Gallery 5 s. upper Gallery 2 s. Boxes upon the Stage 15 s. To begin exactly at Six.

To be Sold by AUCTION.

This preſent Wednesday, being the 12th of December, the late Houſhold Goods and Shop Goods of Mr. Tho. Howcraft jun. which was ſeized by Virtue of a Commiſſion of Bankrupt awarded againſt him, at the Indian Cabinet in Long-Acre near Drury-Lane, conſiſting of Beds and Bedding, and other Houſhold Goods, Japan Cabinets, Walnut-tree Book-Caſes, Bureus, Card-Tables, Peer-Glaſſes, large Looking-glaſſes, Sconces, and all ſorts of Cabinet-Makers Goods. To begin at Ten in the Morning, and Catalogues to be had at the Houſe. Note, the Houſhold Goods have not been up a Year.

For the Benefit of Mrs. Heming

On the 14th Inſtant, at Mr. Clayton's York-Buildings, will be perform'd, The Paſſion of Feaſt of Alexander. Tickets, at a Crown each, are to James's Coffee-houſe, at Mr. Lillie's in Beauford-Buil John's Coffee-houſe in Swithen's Ally by the Roya Sq ire's Coffee-houſe in Fulwood's Rents, and at N houſe at Temple-Bar.

At the Duke of Marlborough's Head ſtreet, in the great Room, is to be ſeen the famous P of Europe, who far exceeds the deceaſed. Poſture and Higgins: He extends his Body into all deform'd Sh his Hip and Shoulder Bones meet together, lays his H Ground, and turns his Body round twice or thrice, with his Feet from the Place, ſtands upon one Leg, and extends in a perpendicular Line half a Yard above his Head, his Body from a Table, with his Head a Foot below his having nothing to balance his Body but his Feet: With ſ Poſtures too tedious to mention. Likewiſe a Child of about Age, that ſhews ſuch Poſtures as never was ſeen perform'd by his Age. Alſo the famous Engliſh Artiſt, who turns his living Birds, and takes an empty Bag, which after trod, and ſtamps on, produces ſome Hundreds of Eggs, living Hen. Side-Boxes 2 s. Pit 1 s. To be perform'd every Evening.

The principal and moſt valuable Pictures ing to the late Sergeant Streeter, viz. Guido, Guerchin P. P. Rubens, Roland Savory, Stenwick the Velvet Lanckrinck, divers curious Flower-Pieces of Van Teeſen gen, noble large Looking-glaſſes finely paſsed with Ornaments by Van Zoon, with other high finish'd Pieces be ſold by Auction to Morrow the 13th and Friday the this inſtant December. The Sale will begin exactly at noon, at his late Dwelling-houſe in Gerard-ſtreet, Collection may be ſeen this Day. Catalogues to be had Place above-named. Note, This Collection is to be ſold neceſſity of his Children, ſo that all things muſt be diſpoſed

Left in a Hackney Coach by a Gentle was ſet down at the Sign of the 3 Chairs in the Hay Tueſday the 27th of November, about 8 at Night, a ſmall Pac with ſome Pieces of forreign Money, and 2 Books of Accompt laſt are of no manner of uſe but to the Owner. If the will bring the Trunk with the Things in it to the ſaid Mr. Bonhom at the upper-end of St. James's-ſtreet; or can diſcover where they are, ſo as they may be recovered or they ſhall have a Guinea Reward.

Every Wedneſday, at half an Hour after the Evening, at the Blue-Coat Coffee-houſe in Swithins the Royal-Exchange, the French Tongue is taught Gratis by a French Gentleman, who teaches the ſaid Language Latin and Engliſh to Gentlemen, Ladies and others, at tions or elſewhere. Enquire at the aboveſaid Coffee-hou Arnold's Writing Maſter in Barbican, or at Dugald's C in St. Martin's-Lane in the Fields.

At the Green Man and Still in Grace Street, for the Accomodation of Gentlemen in Town and ſold a rare Compoſition with which at a Minute's Notice a Bowl of the cleareſt and beſt Punch as can be drank, ding to it the like Quantity of Spring-Water: This Co of the beſt French Brandy, Batavia-Arrack, Juice of the mons, beſt double refined Loaf-Sugar, of each an equal to anſwer the like Quantity of Spring-Water: This is Gentlemen trouble in preparing it. It may be drank in a noble Cordial, and will never decay, but be the better ing. Price but 3 s. a Quart.

To be Sold by AUCTION.

A Curious Collection of Original Prints b beſt Italian French and other Maſters, collected by a Gen his Travels beyond Sea; viz. Several after Raphael, Mark Antony, Augultin of Venice, Syveſtre, Revena, Jolo, Perrugiano, Baptiſto, Franco, Carrats, Guido Rheno, Titian, Tempeſt, Le Bruine, Pouſſine, Albane, Vandike, alſo the Original Battles of Alexander, and ſeveral Italian Prints; at Tom's Coffee-houſe in St. Martin's-Lane, to the 13th Inſtant, at 5 a Clock. The Prints to be ſeen the until the time of Sale; where Catalogues may be had, and Lerpi's, Brookſbank, at the Golden Eagle in the Strand, Gr

A Collection of Original Pictures by t Maſters, lately brought over by T. Marteux, will be ſold tion this Day the 12th Inſtant, at the new Houſe near the ſaid in Henrietta-ſtreet Covent-Garden. To begin at Catalogues are to be had at Mr. Cooper's, a Print-ſhop in Street, and at P. Motte's in Leaden hall-ſtreet, and at tier's, the Place of Sale

The Houſe (late Mr. Cliveh's) in Epſom a Boarding School, being very large and convenient for poſe, ſituate in an healthful Air near the Downs, where French, Writing, &c. are taught by J. Crew, A. M.

Wines to be ſold by Retail.

Excellent Red and White Port, and Red White Liſbon, being neat Wines as they came from the the beſt Growth in Portugal. To be ſold by the Importer In Brabant-Court in Philpot-Lane, viz. Red and White Port Gallon, or 14 l. per Hhd. Red and White Liſbon at 5 s. 6 d. or 16 l. per Hhd. Attendance will be given every Day till

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.